

February 17, 2020
Conference Room – 11:30 AM
City Hall

REGULAR MEETING OF THE YOAKUM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESENT: Gery Maneth..... President
Whitney Boone..... Vice-President
Arthur Hermann..... Secretary
Tommy Barre..... Director
Anita R. Rodríguez..... Director
Elorine Sitka..... Director
Terry Stokes..... Executive Director
Kevin M. Coleman..... City Manager
Theresa A. Bowe..... City Clerk

ABSENT: Zenith Stevens..... Director

President Maneth called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM and welcomed visitor Kaitlin Stubbs with the Yoakum Herald-Times.

Motion by Director Sitka to adopt the minutes of the meetings of January 18, 2020, and January 20, 2020 as presented. Second was made by Director Hermann and motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Coleman presented Financial Reports. Written reports were provided and questions were posed and addressed. After review, Director Rodriguez made a motion to accept the January Financial Report as presented. Motion was seconded by Director Boone and carried unanimously.

Review was held of the Sales Tax Comparison Report received based on numbers from the Texas State Comptroller. Discussion was held.

A Business District Preservation Program Grant application was received and reviewed from the Yoakum Heritage Museum for repairs to the property located at 312 Simpson Street. Photos were provided for review. After discussion, it was noted that the application would be more appropriate as a Community Services Grant and stipulations for grant approval included public acknowledgement of the grant by the grantee of the YEDC contribution. Motion by Director Sitka to approve a Community Services grant for 50% of actual cost of repairs not to exceed \$5,000. Second was made by Director Boone; motion carried unanimously.

Information was presented for the Annual Yoakum Business Appreciation Luncheon. The date was scheduled for May 6, 2020; the Community Center is available and has been booked; President Maneth will check with Vallarta Restaurant for catering services for 150 attendees; Economic Development Executive Director Terry Stokes is to make the presentation and provide information for businesses with topics to include the downtown renovation project and how the renovations will benefit the businesses. Information was provided by ED Stokes on the Historic District Designation project being led by consultant Rebecca Borchers. Ms. Borchers will be asked to provide a brief presentation on the subject at the Annual Business Appreciation Luncheon.

Motion to approve all items as listed for the Annual Business Appreciation Luncheon was made by Director Rodriguez. Second was made by Director Sitka. Motion carried unanimously.

A Joint City Council/Yoakum Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors meeting has been scheduled for April 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM in lieu of the monthly scheduled meeting. Topics to be discussed will include the current strategic planning effort.

Discussion was held regarding YEDC annual membership subscriptions to three organizations. After review, Director Rodriguez made a motion to apply for membership to the Texas Economic Development Council, the International Economic Development Council, and the Yoakum Area Chamber of Commerce. Motion was seconded by Director Barre and carried unanimously.

Under the City Manager's Report, information was presented regarding current grant projects: final payment has been made to Yoakum Partners, Inc. of Yoakum, Texas for the relocation of the fuel pumps at 425 E. Morris Street. The final report was received from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality indicating compliance. Mr. Tim Davis who has purchased the Huth Memorial Hospital building located on Hubbard Street, has begun rehabilitation of the building beginning with cleanup.

Under the Executive Director's Report, ED Stokes thanked the Directors for meeting with him on an individual basis over the last two weeks. He has been gathering information, not only from Board members, but from Council and members of the public, as well. ED Stokes indicated that the strategic planning process is an important part of the building process. He provided information regarding the process for completing an updated Strategic Plan with a goal for completion of November of 2020 inclusive of an outreach program to the community to solicit input into the plan. He suggested implementing an Advisory Board with a maximum of 30 participants and would like additional input from the YEDC Board by March 6th for consideration at the March 16th Board Meeting. ED Stokes indicated that updating the YEDC website, and social media presence is important as we are competing with other EDCs around the globe. Raising the profile of the YEDC and developing a new logo would be helpful in making the community fully aware of what the YEDC does.

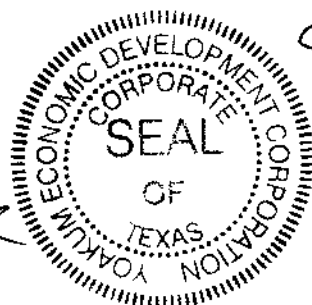
President Maneth announced that the Board would enter into Executive Session at 12:37 PM to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property (V.T.C.A., Gov. Code, Sec. 551.072). The meeting reopened to the public at 1:01 PM with no action resulting from Executive Session.

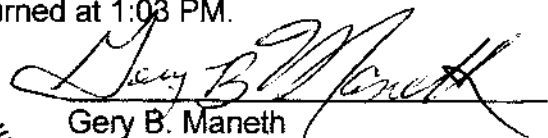
Reminders to the Board regarding the feedback requested for the Strategic Planning process and that Director Sitka will be out-of-pocket for surgery for a while after February 21st.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.

ATTEST:


Theresa A. Bowe, City Clerk




Gery B. Maneth
President